

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete Claims 1-4 in the present application and insert the following claims:

-- 5. A multiple print engine for printing one or more copies of a multiple page document input as a single print job, comprising:
a plurality of physical print engines, each having an input for rasterized data and an output bin for receiving printed output pages;

a job distributor having a single RIP engine for receiving said multiple page documents and providing said rasterized page data organized for parallel distribution to said inputs of selected ones of said plurality of physical print engines according to print job parameters associated with said rasterized data.--

~~6. The apparatus to Claim 5, wherein each said physical print engine comprises an electrophotographic print engine having an interface circuit coupled to said input for receiving said rasterized data from said job distributor.--~~

~~7. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said job distributor comprises:
a RIP engine for receiving said multiple page document and rasterizing
it into rasterized images, each said rasterized image comprising a page of said single
print job;~~

a storage device for storing each said rasterized image;

an image task manager for retrieving the rasterized image for said print job from said storage device and determining a print order for each said page of said print job according to said print job parameters; and

an engine manager for selecting one of said physical print engines to print each retrieved rasterized image according to said print order and distributing said image to said select one of said physical print engines according to said print

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order.--

-- 8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said print job parameter with said rasterized images comprises information encoded in said data and information entered by a user.--

-- 9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said encoded information data selected from the list comprising the number of document copy pages in each document, printing color and printing resolution, speed

-- 10. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said RIP engine comprises a decoder for decoding received input print strings; a rasterizer for generating a rasterized image mapped to the decoded input print strings; and a formatter for constituting each said image as a page

-- 11. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said storage device comprises a plurality of page buffers for storing successively rasterized page data

-- 12. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said image task manager comprises: a disassembler for extracting said print job parameter from the rasterized page data and reading said information entered by said user; and an arranger for arranging said print order for each page based on said print job parameters and said information entered by a user.--

-- 13. The multiple print engine of Claim 7, wherein said print manager is operable to allow rasterized images to be directly routed to the print manager as they are output by said processor.--

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-- 13. The multiple print engine of Claim 7, wherein said image task manager is operable to allow rasterized images to be directly routed to said engine manager as they are output by said processor.--

-- 14. The multiple print engine of Claim 7, comprising a write-through mode wherein a portion of said rasterized images is temporarily stored in said storage device when throughput through said RIP engine is greater than the throughput through said engine manager.--

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-- 15. The multiple print engine of Claim 7, wherein said engine manager comprises:

a selector responsive to said print order for associating one of said plurality of physical print engines with each said rasterized image; and

5 a distributor for coupling said selected physical print engine to said storage device and transferring said image to said selected physical print engine.--

-- 16. The multiple print engine of Claim 7, wherein each of said rasterized images has associated therewith print characteristics for the print job, such that said engine manager is operable to control said selected one physical print engine independent of information encoded in said rasterized images that are sent to said
5 selected one physical print engine.--

-- 17. The multiple print engine of Claim 7, wherein said engine manager is operable to send rasterized images to at least two physical print engines at the same time.--

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-- 18. A multiple print engine for printing a multiple page document input as a single print job, comprising:

a plurality of physical print engines, each having an input for rasterized data and an output bin for receiving printed output pages;

5 a processor for receiving said multiple page document, rasterizing it into rasterized images and storing said rasterized images, each said rasterized image comprising a page of said single print job;

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an arranger for arranging a print order for each print job based on said information associated with said images.--